

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
May 14, 2023, minutes
Approved at the June 2023, Meeting for Business

Meeting for Business opened at 12:30 p.m. by settling into worship on Zoom. Beth Wrightson clerked the meeting. 24 Friends were present.

Philippa Barron shared the Nominating Committee's responses to Advices and Queries on The Meeting Community. Friends expressed appreciation and requested that the notes be shared on groups.io.

The Clerk reviewed the agenda, which was first posted by the Recording Clerk to groups.io on May 13, 2023.

The Recording Clerk then read the April 2023 minutes. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

Prompt

The Clerk read the prompt: "We are reminded to consider how our work and decisions today support SCMM in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community."

Correspondence and Clerk's Business

- The clerk requested that we hold the facilities and tech committees in the Light, with appreciation for their behind-the-scenes labor. We settled into worship for that purpose.
- From early June through August, we will not have the use of the art room or the parking lot at B-Tech. The Children's Program supplies will have to be moved, and the Clerk will be requesting assistance when she knows the date.
- Catya de Neergaard has requested to lay down her membership. Chris Hogness spoke with her on behalf of the Care of Meeting Committee. The Clerk is preparing a letter. We held her in the Light during a moment of silence to mark this transition.
- Dann Naseemullah is asking that his membership be transferred to Hampstead Meeting in London. Care of the Meeting Committee will contact Dann and report back to us.
- Endorsement of Lari Keeler's chaplaincy was minuted in 2018, but the letter sent to their employer on their behalf has been misplaced. The Clerk read the replacement letter that Worship and Ministry composed. Noting that the letter promises that we will receive annual reports from Lari, Beth will ensure that we begin to invite those reports from all the chaplains in our membership.
- Kat Stenstedt and Laura Boles have also requested the Meeting's endorsement for their chaplaincy. When the recommendation is received from Worship and Ministry and Care of the Meeting, the Clerk will write

those letters, send them to Association of Professional Chaplains, and share them with the community.

- A letter, with a donation, came from Gretchen Mueller in thanks for Kris Mueller's memorial service.
- Beth read the thank you letter we received from the Berkeley Food Pantry.
- We have a Board Meeting immediately following this business meeting. Members of the Corporation are requested to stay.

Old Business

Nominating Committee (Susan Black) 2023-24 nominations are nearly complete. Ragni Larsen-Orta withdrew her name from the Facilities Committee slate for spiritual reasons yet will continue to coordinate set-up volunteers as asked and agreed. The Nominations Committee slate was approved with this change.

New Business

Nominating Committee (Susan Black) Elizabeth Strain was nominated to the events committee. That addition will be seasoned for a month before being brought before the community for a decision in June.

Reports

Communications Committee (Sarah Hawthorne)

Library We have had no Librarian for the last four years - Nancy Wilkinson has agreed to handle our group Western Friend subscriptions for this year due to her experience with Western Friend. Rachel Findley will periodically announce reading materials she recommends to nurture our Quaker values.

Newsletter No one has volunteered to serve as editor, so June will be the last issue of the newsletter at least for awhile.

In the Spring of 2024, if these two positions remain vacant, it's likely that Communications Committee will be coming to Meeting for Business with a recommendation that they be laid down, and that certain duties (like handling Western Friend subscriptions) be permanently reassigned elsewhere.

The new website will fill in many of the gaps:

- Meeting for Business minutes: The draft version will continue to be posted on our list serve soon after Meeting for Business, for the convenience of those who want to review and offer corrections at the next Meeting for Business. The final, approved version will then be made available on our website. This is an improvement since most of us now never see the corrected Meeting for Business minutes.
- Calendar. We are adding a new feature to our Calendar webpage that looks like the newsletter's front page/cover sheet summarizing the month's upcoming events. Entries on the calendar, when clicked on, will contain a description in more detail, if such a description is provided to the web

coordinator. Community webpage now features a section on individuals, including the Memorial brochure for those who have passed. (We are still trying to find the electronic version of the memorial brochures for Barbara Graves, Dee Rossman, Stephanie Kennedy, and Tim Saunders. We have the text for Sandra Lewis's but not the final brochure format with photo. If you have those brochures, please speak to Sarah Hawthorne.)

Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee (Susan Burr) shared the subcommittee's yearly report outlining the committee's extensive work and some reflections. Highlights include several series of workshops and movies. Of note was their collaboration with Peace, Earthcare, and Social Witness on the Doctrine of Discovery. The committee's report was circulated via groups.io on May 15th.

Care of the Meeting Committee (Chris Hogness). There are funds available to attend Quaker events, such as College Park Quarterly and Pacific Yearly Meetings. A special contribution of \$800 has also been made toward the cost of Friends General Conference for Friends who wish to attend. Care of the Meeting Committee and Communications Committee are collaborating to improve our record keeping and archives. The Revisioning Committee (Charlie Blanchard, Elizabeth Strain, Beth Wrightson, and Paul Jolly) has nearly completed conversations with committee clerks, and is moving into the distillation phase of its work.

Query

The Clerk invited us to contemplate the query: "How did our work and our decisions today support us in becoming an actively anti-racist faith community?" A period of worship followed. Several Friends responded with gratitude for the opportunity to grow.

Announcements

The next Meeting for Business will be June 11th at 12:30 p.m. on the Meeting's Zoom.

There is a deadline of June 1st for Friends to ask for funds for Pacific Yearly Meeting or Friends General Conference registration and travel.

Community Sharing Fund (Larry Strain) hosted a listening session on the fund. A report will be given at the June business meeting.

Elizabeth Strain is coordinating an informal group of people providing coffee for after-Meeting fellowship. If you want to volunteer, contact Elizabeth.

Pacific Yearly Meeting (Ragni Larsen-Orta) registration starts May 15th. July 21-26 at Mount Madonna near Watsonville.

Meeting settled into worship and closed at 2:19 p.m.

Beth Wrightson, Clerk
Elaine Emily, Alternate Clerk
Paul Jolly, Recording Clerk